

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
WNCEDNET CONNECTIVITY
April 8, 2009

WNCEDNET is gathering information to develop an application for connectivity funding. WNCEDNET seeks to promote the deployment of broadband access connecting school and college sites in Jackson, Swain, Macon, Graham, Cherokee, and Clay counties as well as the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

We request information from private and public sector organizations that have or can develop the capability to assist in this effort.

The information should be sent to:

Leonard Winchester (828-341-5096)
P.O. Box 892
Bryson City, NC 28713

Electronic transmissions are preferred: (LWINCHES@VERIZON.NET all lowercase). The information should be sent by April 30, 2009. RFIs that contain proprietary information should specifically identify the information considered proprietary. This RFI may or may not be followed by a request for proposal (RFP).

Background

WNCEDNET has or soon will complete school connectivity projects in the named areas connecting the K-12 schools in a star configuration to a district hub. We now seek to connect the college satellite sites to each main college campus and then connect the school district hubs to the colleges. The star configurations are dark fiber connections with the schools providing the electronics and management for those connections. The college satellite connections to the main college campuses will also be dark fiber connections. The interconnection of the district hubs with the college sites may or may not be dark fiber connections. Managed services for this connectivity will also be considered. For those familiar with our previous efforts this was previously referred to as a "Ring of Stars". This connectivity does not have to be a ring but must fulfill the functional interconnect equivalence.

Response

The desired response to this RFI will include the following information:

1. Describe the solution(s) you would recommend or offer to complete these connections (see list).
2. Describe the infrastructure used to support your solution to this connectivity project.
3. If managed services are proposed please describe your ability to scale bandwidth and the maximum scalability available.
4. Include a profile of your company including your organizational structure (LLC, C or S corporation, etc), partnering organizations, and experience.
5. Estimated total cost. This is not a binding quote.
6. Projected schedule. What is the estimated time required for deployment.

Site List

School District Hub Sites

Cherokee County - 2415 Airport Road, Marble NC
Clay County - 205 Yellow Jacket Drive, Hayesville, NC
Graham County - 301 Sweetwater Road, Robbinsville, NC
Swain County - 135 Arlington Ave, Bryson City, NC
Cherokee Reservation - 33 Drowning Bear, Cherokee, NC
Jackson County - 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC
Macon County - 1201 Old Murphy Road, Franklin, NC

College Satellite sites to Main College Campus

SCC Webster campus - 447 College Drive, Sylva NC
 SCC Future Macon Campus - Siler Road, Franklin NC
 SCC Public Safety Training Center 222 Industrial Park Loop, Franklin
 SCC Franklin Center 23 Macon Avenue, Franklin

Western Carolina University, 220 Killian Bldg, Cullowhee, NC
 WCU Cherokee Center, 1594 Acquoni Road, Cherokee NC

Tri-County Community College, 4600 East US 64, Murphy, NC
 Tri-County Machinist Program, 2415 Airport Road, Marble NC
 Tri County Andrews Center, 50 High School Drive
 TCCC Graham Center 145 Moose Branch Road

Please note that the interconnect objective is to connect the seven school district hub sites and the three college main campus sites.